

MARINE CORPS WARFIGHTING LABORATORY

The purpose of the improved **First Aid Kit** is to place greater first aid capabilities in the hands of Marines who could be called upon to administer critical assistance to themselves or other casualties.

Background: Current military first aid kits have not been redesigned for over 40 years. Though it has served the military well, the advent of new technologies has made it possible to greatly enhance the aging kit. Current and future operational environments, including operations in urban terrain, require increased self reliance for first aid measures.

Description: The new first aid kit includes improved bandages with new elastic compression fabric, tension hooks and a Velcro attachment. The battle dressings are easy and quick to use, and are super absorbent. These vacuum-packed rolled bandages can either be unwound and used like gauze or wadded into the wound. The new attachments allow wounded Marines to bandage themselves and fasten the dressing with little difficulty.

More than half of all combat fatalities are due to blood loss, which is why a new product called QuikClot has also been introduced into the kit. QuikClot is a sterile, traumatic wound treatment that rapidly arrests high-volume blood loss and achieves hemostasis in large wounds, arresting hemorrhage. Made of a granulated substance, it physically absorbs the liquid from the blood, thereby concentrating the clotting factors and encouraging rapid clotting to stop the bleeding. It can be applied with one hand in less than 30 seconds. The remaining contents of the kit include 10 adhesive bandages for scrapes and scratches, a burn dressing, cotton cravats, water purification tablets and Betadine, a germ killing liquid. The contents fit tightly into an olive green cloth pack.

FIRST AID KIT *fact sheet*



Another plus for the new kit is that it weighs only 11 ounces.

Deliverable Products: Simple, easy to use, high pay off technologies intended to provide the warfighter greater first aid capabilities in order to improve survival and reduce the effects of combat injuries on mission accomplishment.

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